

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 8/8/2008 has been entered.

Terminal Disclaimer

The terminal disclaimer filed on 1 January 2008 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration dates of the full statutory term of the patent granted on pending reference Application Number 10/711,495 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given in a telephone interview with Raymond E. Roberts (Reg. No. 38,597) on 28 August 2008.

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This application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Replace claim 1, 13 and 24 as follows.

CLAIM 1:

A computer program, embodied on a computer readable storage medium, for assisting a user to determine whether an email comes from a purported originator, the computer program comprising:

a code segment that determines with a computerized system whether the email includes an authenticity mark including an originator identifier and encrypted data, wherein said encrypted data associated with said authenticity mark does not include payload data;

a code segment that decrypts said encrypted data based on said originator identifier, into decrypted data;

a code segment that matches said originator identifier from said authentication mark to one of a plurality of registered originators against a unique identity extracted from said decrypted data;

a code segment that presents to the user on a display unit:

whether the email includes said authenticity mark;

whether said encrypted data decrypts successfully; and

information based on said authenticity mark and said decrypted data.

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CLAIM 13:

A system for assisting a user to determine whether an email comes from a purported originator, the system comprising:

a computerized system having a display unit;

a logic in said computerized system that determines whether the email includes an authenticity mark including an originator identifier and encrypted data, wherein said encrypted data associated with said authenticity mark does not include payload data;

a logic in said computerized system that decrypts said encrypted data based on said originator identifier, into decrypted data;

a logic in said computerized system that matches said originator identifier from said authentication mark to one of a plurality of registered originators against a unique identity extracted from said decrypted data;

a logic in said computerized system that that presents to the user, on said display:

whether the email includes said authenticity mark;

whether said encrypted data decrypts successfully; and

information based on said authenticity mark and said decrypted data.

CLAIM 24:

A method for assisting a user to determine whether an email comes from a purported originator, the method comprising:

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determining whether the email includes an authenticity mark including an originator identifier and encrypted data, wherein said encrypted data associated with said authenticity mark does not include payload data;

decrypting said encrypted data based on said originator identifier, into decrypted data; a code segment that matches said originator identifier from said authentication mark to one of a plurality of registered originators against a unique identity extracted from said decrypted data;

presenting to the user:

whether the email includes said authenticity mark;

whether said encrypted data decrypts successfully; and

information based on said authenticity mark and said decrypted data.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1 - 34 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The above mentioned claims are allowable over prior arts because the CPA (Cited Prior Art) of record fails to teach or render obvious the claimed limitations in combination with the specific added limitations recited in claims 1, 13 and 24 (& associated dependent claims).

The present invention is directed to a method for assisting a user to determine whether an email comes from a purported originator, the method comprises determining whether the email includes an authenticity mark including an originator identifier and encrypted data, wherein said encrypted data associated with said authenticity mark does not include payload data. The closest prior arts on the record, either singularly or in combination fails to anticipate or render obvious the claimed invention that decrypting said encrypted data based on said originator identifier, into decrypted data and matching said originator identifier from said

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authentication mark to one of a plurality of registered originators against a unique identity extracted from said decrypted data; determining whether the email includes said authenticity mark and whether said encrypted data can be decrypted successfully.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Longbit Chai whose telephone number is 571-272-3788. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz R Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Longbit Chai/

Longbit Chai Ph.D.
Primary Patent Examiner
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09/5/2008